Outdated waste disposal technology

230. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that outdated incinerator-based waste disposal technologies which are already discarded by US and Europe are still being used in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to sign MoUs with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Service Limited (IL&FS) and other private companies to set up plants that convert solid waste to energy;

(c) if so, by when the MoUs are expected to be signed and the plants would start running; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The three projects on energy recovery from Municipal Solid Wastes undertaken in the recent past have been based on biomethanation and combustion of Refuse Derived Fuel. These technologies as well as that of incineration have not been discarded in US and Europe.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Projects on energy recovery from Municipal Solid Wastes can be taken up by urban local bodies, other Government Organisations or private developers, or through public private partnership.

Developing alternative sources of energy

231. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the fiscal allocation and expenditure for developing alternative sources of energy *i.e.* solar, wind, etc;

(b) the steps taken to implement and aid independent innovators;

(c) whether Government are aware of huge potential available in the North-East in general and Assam in particular; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to tap this potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs. 4000 crore was allocated to the Ministry for the development and deployment of new and renewable energy for the 10th plan period (2002-07). Against this, the budget provision was Rs. 3106.25 crore, which was further reduced to Rs. 1988.44 crore at the revised estimate stage. The actual expenditure during this period was Rs. 1718.69 crore. The budget provision for 2007-08 is Rs. 628 crore.

(b) The Ministry provides financial support for innovative projects on research, design and development of new and renewable energy from research institutions, industry and universities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To tap this potential in the country, including the North-East, fiscal and financial incentives are being provided. These include capital/interest subsidy, with 10 per cent of the GBS being earmarked for the North-East. Other incentives include accelerated depreciation, concessional duties, relief from taxes, and preferential tariff for grid power which is being given in most potential States. These apart, publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/devices is being created through print, postal and electronic media. District-level Advisory Committees have also been constituted in the States to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

Impact of power projects in the North East on environment

232. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power projects in the North East have been framed though the laid down procedures without ignoring environmental concerns; and

(b) whether the projections of power potential have been made by ignoring the delicate ecological balance of the North East?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) All power projects in the country including those in the North Eastern Region are conceived and their various parameters finalised only after detailed survey and investigation and necessary studies. Environmental concerns are given due consideration through Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies and Environment Management Plans (EMPs) formulated at the time of preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project. The projects are sanctioned and construction of power projects commences only after obtaining the statutory environmental clearances from Central/State agencies.

(b) The projection of power potential has been made by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) broadly taking into account the known ecological features of the area. However, detailed studies are done at the time of preparation of the DPR and statutory environment and forests clearances obtained before commencement of construction.

Shortcomings of APDRP

233. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were significant deficiencies in the quality and reliability of power supply, which was targeted under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP);

(b) whether the number of feeder trippings and duration of outage, as well the failure rate of distribution transformers was much higher than permissible in most States;

(c) whether there is lack of improvement in disposal of consumer complaints; and

(d) the measures taken to check the shortcomings of APDRP?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was launched in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms and of reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, improving quality of supply of power and